

A KENTUCKY HISTORY MOMENT



View of the Cumberland River from Vista Ridge Park, near William Kelly's Suwanee Furnace in Lyon County. Lyon County Public Library, Susan Mace Collection. Used with permission.

LYON COUNTY: SANITY RULING LEADS TO STEEL INDUSTRY GAME CHANGER

In the mid-1800s, Dr. G.M. Huggans, a Lyon County physician, played a role in the development of the steel industry. When people questioned the sanity of inventor William Kelly, who proposed blowing air through molten pig iron to oxidize it and remove impurities, Huggans evaluated him and found him to be sane. Kelly invented and patented the pneumatic process of steelmaking, which, with the process Sir Henry Bessemer developed, laid the foundation for the steel industry.



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